



STRANGE STORIES
OF SUSPENSE

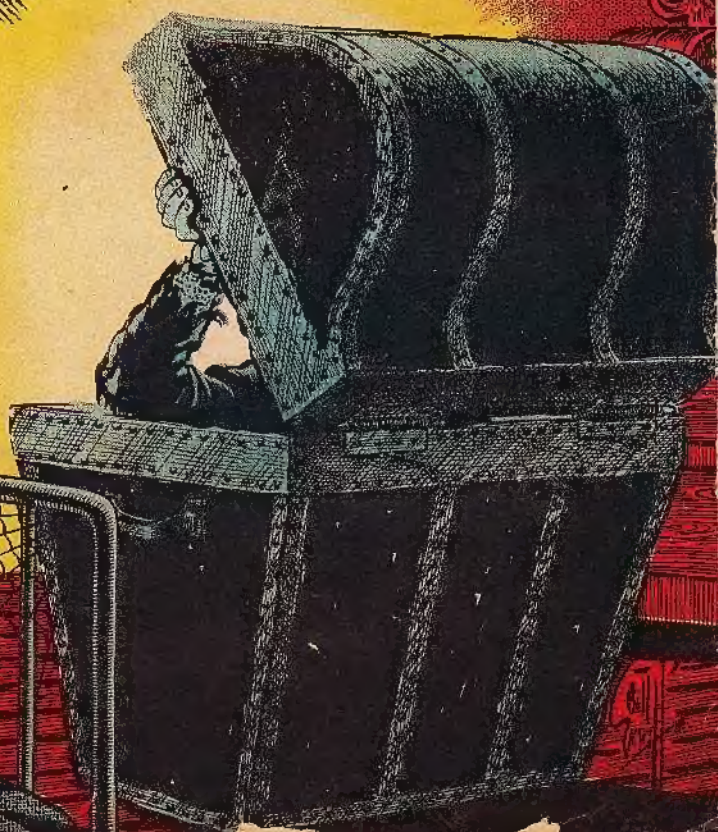


APR.
NO.
14

10¢

STRANGE STORIES OF SUSPENSE

THERE MUST BE
A REASON WHY
"SOMEONE
WAITS IN THE
TRUNK!"



"WE'LL RIPPLE YOUR BODY WITH MUSCLES and LOAD T.N.T IN YOUR FISTS"

Says **JOE LOUIS**, Great World Champion

I wish you could come to Lou Stillman's famous training headquarters with me . . . see how the Champions build their bodies and keep physically fit.

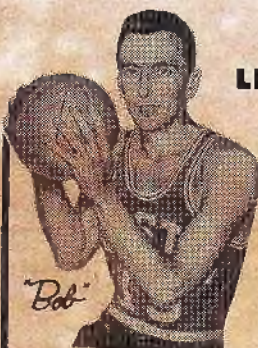
Are you fat and flabby? Watch Ted Kluszewski, of the Cincinnati Reds show his surefire method to remove fat. Want powerful shoulders? Football star Doak Walker has a proven body builder that gives you results **FAST!**

If you want to be a star athlete or look like one . . . let famous Stars show you how. It's simple. It's easy. Find out how we can make you a *real man* in 15 minutes a day.

Extra! I'll send you my "Fight Secrets" for just 10c—so that you'll be sure to write me. Get off the bench—and into the game. Send me the coupon below right now!

Sincerely,

Joe Louis



"Bob"

LET 20 GREAT STARS GIVE YOU...POWER SKILL, CONFIDENCE

Now, for the first time, famous Champions train you . . . coach you . . . and help you command the respect of your friends!

TED KLUSZEWSKI gives you his sure-fire method to loosen up for action for baseball and football . . . **EASY**

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PAUL GIEL gives you tremendous leg power and toughens you up for football.

Win new popularity. Guaranteed to add solid inches to your chest. Easy . . . At Home . . . In less than 15 minutes a day!



"Ted"

*Are
You...*

- Tired
- Nervous
- Rundown
- Skinny
- Fat and Flabby
- Always being picked on

Then do exactly as Joe and his Champion Staff of Instructors tell you. For full facts send coupon below.



ACT NOW!

MAIL COUPON TODAY

JOE LOUIS, c/o NATIONAL SPORTS COUNCIL, DEPT. AM-17
33 West 46th Street, New York 36, N. Y.

Dear Joe:

- ☐ Please send me absolutely **FREE** a full and complete explanation of how The National Sports Council can build me the right kind of body.
- ☐ Enclosed is 10c. Include your famous *Fight Secrets*.

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ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____



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33 West 46th Street, New York 36, New York Dept. AM-17

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RAFFINGTON HAD BEEN A NICE PLACE TO LIVE UNTIL THE STRANGER REVEALED HIS TRUE IDENTITY!
THEN SOON EVIL THINGS BEFELL THE PEACEFUL TOWN, AND THERE WAS A WARNING CRY...

BEWARE... A MARTIAN

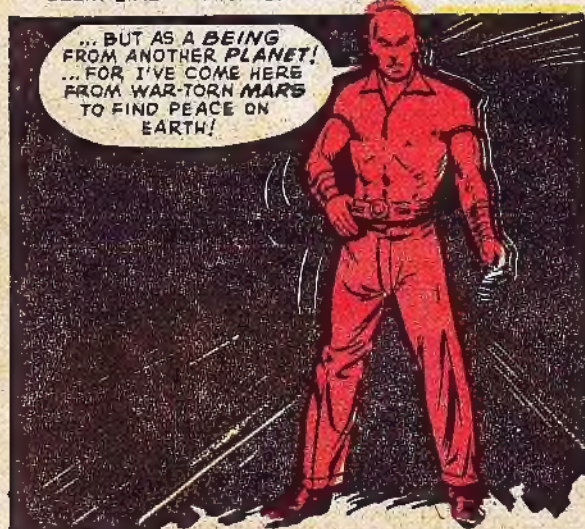


IT'S MR. NARDO, THE
HERMIT THAT'S BEEN
LIVING IN THE SHACK
AT THE EDGE OF TOWN!
WHAT IN THE WORLD CAN
HE HAVE TO SAY?

FOR A YEAR, I'VE BEEN
LIVING AMONG YOU GOOD
PEOPLE OF RAFFINGTON!
I'VE LEARNED YOUR LANGUAGE,
LEARNED TO LIKE YOU... I
WANT TO LIVE AMONG YOU
AS I REALLY AM, NOT
AS A HERMIT...

NARDO'S WORDS ALONE WOULD HAVE DAFLED HIS
LISTENERS AT THE TOWN HALL, BUT THE CHANGE
THAT CAME OVER HIM MADE WHAT THEIR EYES BEHELD
SEEM LIKE A TRICK OF THEIR IMAGINATION...

A CRESCENDO OF AGONISHED MURMURS FILLED THE HALL,
AND THEN THE AUDIENCE FELL INTO A DEATHLY HUSH...



... BUT AS A BEING
FROM ANOTHER PLANET!
... FOR I'VE COME HERE
FROM WAR-TORN MARS
TO FIND PEACE ON
EARTH!



I SEE FEAR ON
MANY FACES!
I UNDERSTAND
IT! BELIEVE ME,
I ASK ONLY FOR
AN OPPORTUNITY
TO LIVE AMONG
YOU AS A
FRIEND!

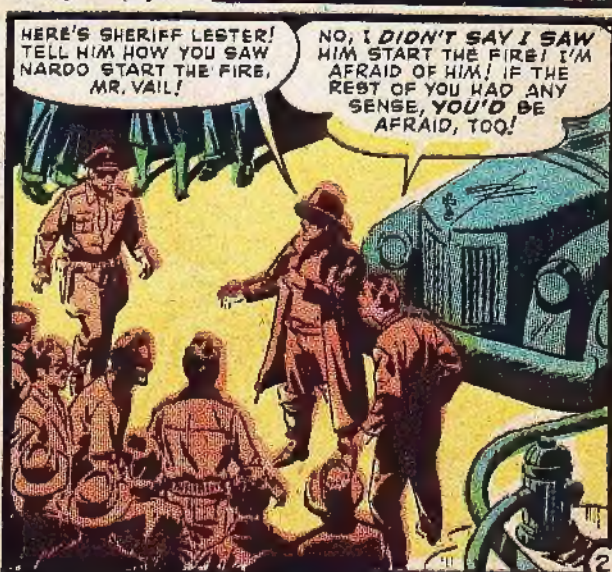
IN MAY, 1968, JUST TWO WEEKS AFTER REVEALING HIS IDENTITY, NARDO GOT A JOB WITH THE MANUFACTURING FIRM OF R.R. MCGOWAN & CO...AND A MONTH LATER...



NOT EVERYBODY WAS PLEASED WITH THE MARTIAN'S SPECTACULAR SUCCESS...



HORACE VAIL, IN HIS UNREASONABLE JEALOUSY OF THE MAN FROM MARS, DID NOT SHOUT HIS WARNING...HE FOUND A MORE VICIOUS WAY TO HARM NARDO...



A HALF-HOUR LATER, SHERIFF JOHN LESTER VISITED THE MARTIAN AT HIS HOME IN TOWN...



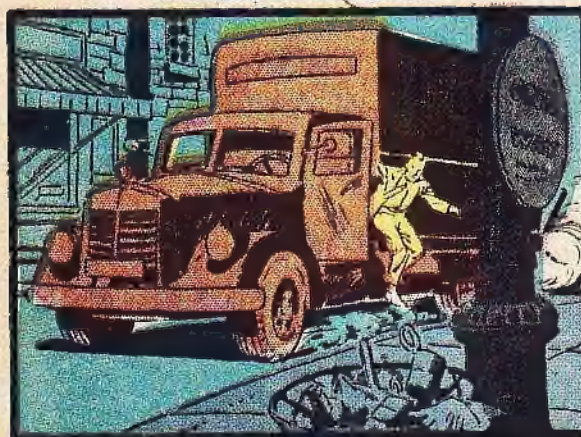
CAN YOU PROVE YOU'VE BEEN HOME ALL EVENING, NARDO?

UNFORTUNATELY, I CAN'T, SHERIFF! OF COURSE, IT'S NOT TRUE THAT I SET FIRE TO THE WAREHOUSE!

YOUR WORD IS GOOD, NARDO! I'M NOT GOING TO ARREST YOU... BUT HAVE A CARE! IF THAT FIRE WAS YOUR WORK, WE'LL FIND OUT EVENTUALLY! IF NOT, WELL, YOU'VE GOT AN ENEMY THAT BEARS WATCHING!



HORACE VAIL HAD ONLY BEGUN HIS ATTACK ON THE CHARACTER OF THE MARTIAN! ONE NIGHT HE RELEASED THE BRAKES OF A TRUCK...



LATER, HE MADE SURE THAT SUSPICION FELL WHERE HE WANTED IT TO...



NOT ONLY WAS MY BRAKE ON... I HAD THE FRONT WHEELS NOSED INTO THE CURB, AND THE GEAR WAS IN REVERSE! QUESTION IS, WHO'D DELIBERATELY DO A THING LIKE THAT?

ONLY SOMEONE UNCONTROLLABLY WILD! SOMEONE DIFFERENT FROM US!

NIGHT AFTER NIGHT SOME ACCIDENT OCCURRED! ALWAYS IT WAS SOMETHING THAT MUST HAVE BEEN CAUSED DELIBERATELY... AND HORACE VAIL CONTINUED DIRECTING SUSPICION AT NARDO...



SOMEBODY WRECKED THE DYNAMITE SHED OVER AT THE BARTLETT CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, MADE OFF WITH ENOUGH NITROGLYCERIN TO BLOW UP A SQUARE BLOCK!

"SOMEBODY"! YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO WHO'S RESPONSIBLE!

NARDO? MAYBE, BUT HE SEEMS LIKE SUCH A DECENT GUY!

I TOLD YOU THIS TOWN'D BE SORRY! FOLKS HAD BETTER WAKE UP BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!



THERE WAS GREAT CONSTERNATION IN TOWN THAT DAY! AN EMERGENCY MEETING WAS CALLED FOR THE SAME NIGHT... BEFORE GOING TO IT, SHERIFF LESTER STOPPED OFF TO SEE NARDO...



NARDO, SOMEHOW I BELIEVE IN YOU! BUT THE PEOPLE WILL DEMAND YOUR ARREST!

I SWEAR I'M INNOCENT OF THESE CRIMES, SHERIFF! YOU CAN HELP ME...

THE TOWNSPEOPLE WERE IN AN UGLY MOOD WHEN THE SHERIFF ADDRESSED THEM LATER...



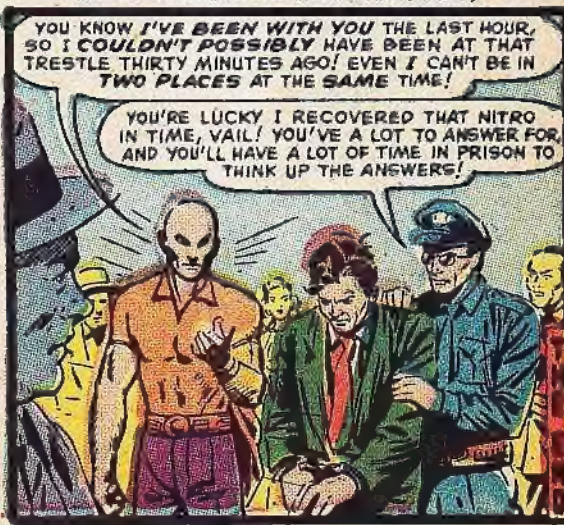
SHERIFF LESTER HAD BEEN ARGUING WITH THE ANGRY CITIZENS FOR AN HOUR WHEN HORACE VAIL BURST IN ON THE MEETING...



THE ENRAGED TOWNSMEN WENT TO NARDO'S HOME...THERE WERE LIGHTS ON INSIDE...THEY SHOUTED FOR HIM TO COME OUT...SOMEONE DID COME OUT...



SHERIFF LESTER POINTED TO HIS DOUBT! THE PEOPLE STARED WITH AMAZEMENT AS THE "SHERIFF" WHO LED THEM THERE QUICKLY TOOK ON HIS REAL APPEARANCE OF THE MARTIAN CREATURE NARDO!



Boys! Girls! Men! Women!

We'll Send You These 2 Boxes of Sensational New First-Time Ideas in **GREETING CARDS**

and Show You How
to Make

\$75 to \$500⁰⁰ AND
EVEN MORE

**Easily and Quickly
in Your Spare Time**

Send No Money—Mail Coupon Below!

If you can use extra cash, here's the easiest, pleasantest way to make it. The exquisite Greeting Cards in the Royal Deluxe 3-in-1 All-Occasion Assortment win friends by the score. An exciting new idea . . . 3 different popular shapes all in one Assortment! And the HI-LITES Humorous Assortment is simply irresistible. The moment friends and neighbors see these two spectacular, new-idea assortments, they want them. Each Assortment sells for such a low price, you'll take orders right and left, keep up to 50¢ of every \$1.00 you take in.

Making Money Is Easy—Fast—Fun!

Everyone falls in love with these new greeting cards instantly. Let our new-idea Assortments make more money FOR YOU than ever before in spare time. See how wonderfully easy it is to sell greeting cards which say in the modern manner what's in the sender's heart for Birthdays, Anniversaries, Get Well, Baby-Births, and many other occasions.

ORGANIZATIONS: Churches, clubs, Veterans' auxiliaries, etc. can add hundreds of dollars to your treasury funds so easily with these fast selling assortments.

40 More Popular Money-Makers

These thrilling new All-Occasion Assortments shown are only 2 of dozens of fast sellers. We'll send details of charming Mandarin Parchment Assortment, lovely new Golden Photochrome Assortment, gorgeous Gift Wrappings, a variety of

beautiful Stationery and Personal Notes, Imported Napkins, Children's Books, a host of Novelty Gift Items—and an exquisite new assortment of Easter Greeting Cards.

Be First! Mail Coupon Today!

See for yourself! Don't send a penny. Mail coupon for the 2 assortments shown here, sent you on approval, all postage paid. We'll include FREE Illustrated Catalog and details of our amazingly simple Money-Making Plan. Mail the coupon TODAY!

WALLACE BROWN, INC. 11 East 26th St., Dept. A-163
New York 10, N.Y.



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HUMOROUS ASSORTMENT
Birthdays, Anniversaries, Get-Well, Baby-Births, Etc.
Terrific designs that tickle the funny bone, in new smart TALL shape, delightfully decorated with sequins, glitter, flocking. The gayest and cleverest cards ever created.



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I want to make extra money. Please send me on approval the 2 Greeting Card Assortments shown above, plus FREE Illustrated Catalog and Money-Making Plan.

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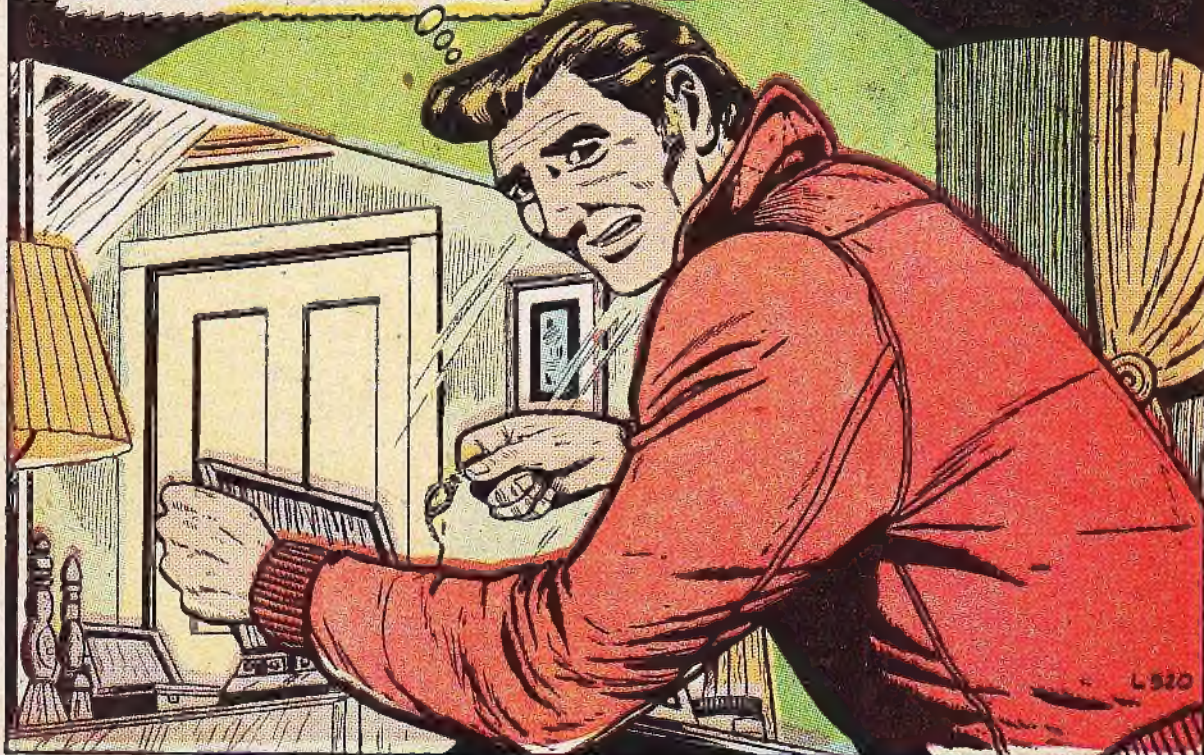
City _____ State _____

If writing for an organization, give its name _____

JERRY SLADE MANAGED TO EKE OUT A LIVING FROM HIS SHADY OCCUPATION... UNTIL HE ACQUIRED A MYSTERIOUS ROOMMATE. / AND WHEN HE SOUGHT TO STEAL FROM THAT UNKNOWN MAN, HE COULD ONLY UTTER A STRANGLERED CRY THAT...

SOMEONE IS ^{IN THE} TRUNK

THIS IS A NICE LITTLE HAUL... OUGHT TO NET ME FIFTY BUCKS OR SO. / UH OH, THAT SOUNDS LIKE MRS. PEARSON'S FOOTSTEPS... I'VE NO TIME TO GET OUT.

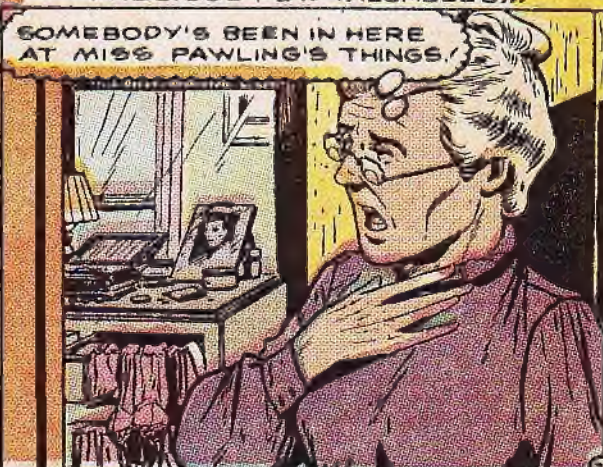


MOST OF JERRY SLADE'S THIEVERY WAS CARRIED ON AT MRS. PEARSON'S ROOMING HOUSE, WHERE HE OCCUPIED A SMALL TOP FLOOR ROOM. / THE LANDLADY HAD BEEN PLAGUED FOR SOME TIME BY THE MYSTERIOUS THEFTS...

IT NEVER SEEMED TO TROUBLE HIS CONSCIENCE THAT HE WAS STEALING FROM HARD-WORKING PEOPLE WHO COULD ILL AFFORD TO LOSE THEIR PRECIOUS FEW VALUABLES...



THIS IS GOIN' TO BE A CLOSE ONE.



SOMEBODY'S BEEN IN HERE AT MISS PAWLING'S THINGS.

THERE WAS NO REASON FOR MRS. PEARSON TO SUSPECT JERRY. HE LEFT FOR HIS "JOB" EACH MORNING. BUT LATER HE WOULD SNEAK BACK INTO THE HOUSE, SNEAK OUT AGAIN WITH HIS LOOT AND HEAD FOR A PAWNSHOP...



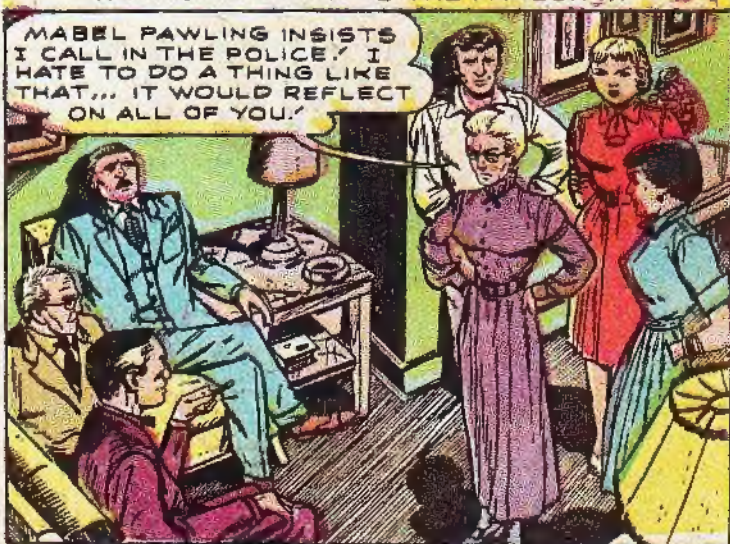
AW, GIVE ME A BREAK! THESE ARE THE LAST THINGS WE HAVE... MY WIFE'S JEWELRY!

FORTY-THREE DOLLARS IS ALL I CAN LET YOU HAVE ON THIS STUFF.

I'LL TRY TO THINK OF SOME WAY OF STOPPING THESE THEFTS WITHOUT EMBARRASSING YOU. BE SURE TO LOCK YOUR DOORS WHEN YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR ROOMS!



THAT EVENING MRS. PEARSON CALLED ALL HER ROOMERS DOWN TO THE PARLOR...



MABEL PAWLING INSISTS I CALL IN THE POLICE. I HATE TO DO A THING LIKE THAT... IT WOULD REFLECT ON ALL OF YOU.

OH, MR. SLADE... I'D LIKE A WORD IN PRIVATE WITH YOU.

I WONDER IF SHE SUSPECTS SOMETHING!

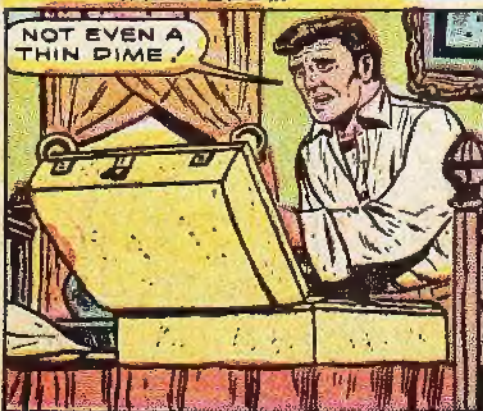


... AND THIS GENTLEMAN, WHO WORKS AT NIGHT, IS VERY ANXIOUS TO SHARE A ROOM WITH SOMEBODY WHO WORKS BY DAY! NATURALLY, I'D MAKE A FAIR REDUCTION IN YOUR RENT. IF IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOU, HE'LL MOVE IN MONDAY MORNING!

THAT'S A PRETTY SMART ARRANGEMENT, MRS. PEARSON... A ROOMMATE WHO WON'T BE IN MY WAY! I'LL BE GLAD TO SAVE A FEW DOLLARS A WEEK!

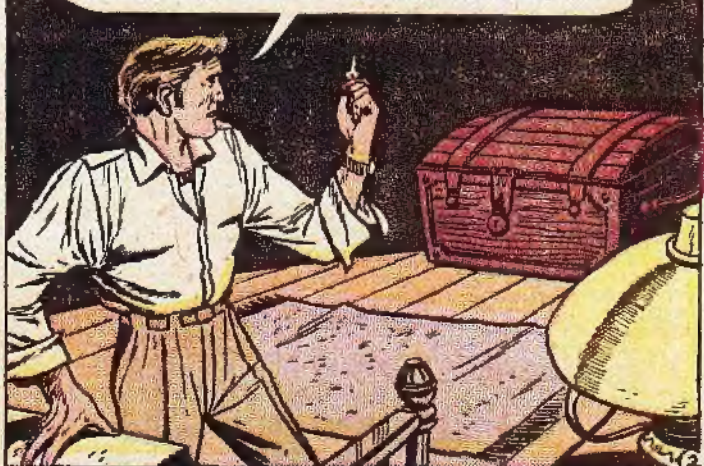


WHEN JERRY SLADE RETURNED FROM "WORK" AFTER SIX O'CLOCK MONDAY EVENING, HE FOUND HIS ROOMMATE HAD ALREADY LEFT. JERRY LOST NO TIME EXAMINING THE OTHER MAN'S SUITCASE AND CLOTHING FOR SOME CHANCE VALUABLE...



NOT EVEN A THIN DIME!

IF HE HAS ANYTHING AT ALL WORTH TAKIN', IT'S PROBABLY IN THAT TRUNK, OR HE WOULDN'T BOTHER TO LOCK IT. BE JUST MY LUCK HE'D HAVE THE KEY WITH HIM... NO, WAIT! MAYBE THIS IS IT!





VERY CARELESS OF YOU, MY FRIEND! YOU SHOULD'VE HIDDEN THAT KEY MORE CAREFULLY!

IT WAS NECESSARY TO LIFT THE TRAYS OUT TO OPEN THEIR CATCHES! BUT JERRY WAS IN NO HURRY...



THIS IS ALMOST TOO EASY! PROBABLY NOTHING WORTHWHILE TAKING!



WOW! THAT TRUNK'S A TREASURE CHEST! BETTER NOT TAKE TOO MUCH... THESE DIAMOND-STUDDED CUFFLINKS OUGHT TO BRING A HUNDRED!



WHAT?! SOMEONE IS IN THE TRUNK!

JERRY HURRIEDLY PUT BACK THE TRAY, LOCKED THE TRUNK, POCKETED THE CUFFLINKS AND LEFT THE HOUSE...

HE WANDERED ABOUT UNTIL HE FOUND A PAWN-SHOP THAT WAS OPEN...

JERRY SLADE KEPT AWAY FROM THE TRUNK FOR A FEW DAYS, BUT THE LURE OF EASY MONEY WAS TOO MUCH FOR HIM! ONE NIGHT...



I'LL NEVER LOOK IN THAT TRUNK AGAIN!



VERY NICE! I'LL LOAN YOU A HUNDRED-AND-FIFTY ON THEM!

FINE! THAT'S A DEAL!



SEEM' THAT FACE WAS ALL IN MY MIND! I'D BE A FOOL TO LET SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT STOP ME!



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The most wonderful book for boys ever put together!

Here's a treasure chest of enjoyable and interesting pastimes and sports—hobbies and games for every active youngster. No end to the things to do and fun to enjoy. Contains

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- 14 A Beginner's Course on Ventriloquism with a Complete Skit

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You, too, can be taught! You can defeat any man in a fight! This is what this book promises you! Lightning Ju-Jitsu will equip you with a powerful defense and counter attack against any bulky attacker or enemy. It is equally effective and easy to use by any man or woman, boy or girl—and you don't need big muscles or weight to apply. Technique and the know-how does the trick. This book gives you all the secrets, grips, postures, which are so effective in quickly putting an attacker out of business.

Just follow the illustrations and easy directions, practice the grips, holds and movements—and you'll fear no man. 96 pages—dozens of illustrations and on y—\$1.00.

Price only
\$1.00



LEARN TO DANCE—At Home

Don't envy dancers. Be one. Enjoy life, dancing. Be popular. Others do, why not you? Here is a simple and complete guide that shows you how you can teach yourself to become a good dancer, easily and quickly. Fully illustrated with a dancing couple, showing you each step and movement—with foot prints—showing just how feet move—and with complete written information and advice on leading and following rhythm, posture, etiquette, etc.

AMAZING BARGAIN. Set of three books—

HOW TO DANCE—covers popular ballroom dancing—The Waltz, Hysteria, Savoy, La Bomba, The Rhumba, Rock Bottom, Charleston, Fox Trot, Tango, Promenade, El Charonne, The Polka, etc.

SWING STEPS—covers today's exciting swing rhythms—The Swing Break, Snake Hips, Shm, Shm, Shimmy, The Swoon, The Westchester, Tramping The Peabody, etc.

SQUARE DANCING—covers popular country dancing—Square Sets, Quadrilles, Running Sets, Play-Games, Round Dances, some dances are Wagon Wheel, Virginia Reel, Mountaineer, Lily White Hands, Gal from Arkansas, Birdie in a Cage, etc.

You can learn a basic step in one hour, a complete dance in one evening. From then on it is just practice and dancing. Get in the fun! Send for these easy, home-study dance lessons NOW! Only \$1.00.

Price only
\$1.00



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In ONE DAY You'll Be Able to Perform a Ventriloquial Skit!!

How would you like to be able to perform ventriloquism? It would give you lots of fun and pleasure! Brand new book—**VENTRILLOQUISM MADE EASY**, by John Mendoza—reveals all the methods and secrets in the art of "throwing your voice." This book takes away all the mystery—shows you just how the voice is made to appear to come from some other place—how to handle all different words, phrases, and sentences—how your actions and acting help in the make-believe—how to make your voice sound different when impersonating a boy or girl, a man or woman, a horse, dog or other being—how to develop props and appearances—how to select and have made a suitable figure or dummy to work with—how to learn the patter and also a stage manner—how to give a competent, complete performance—and much more! And that is not all!

FREE WITH EVERY ORDER FOR THIS BOOK. Book of 100 AMUSEMENTS. Gives you a series of party and professional stunts, tricks, magic songs, jokes, patter! Will make you popular and a real entertainer! And the price COMPLETE IS ONLY \$1.00.

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☐ Fun for Boys _____ \$1.00

☐ Lightning Ju Jitsu _____ 1.00

☐ Learn To Dance _____ 1.00

☐ Ventriloquism Made Easy (with book of 100 Amusements) Free _____ 1.00

☐ I enclose \$_____ in payment. Send postage free.

☐ Send C.O.D. for \$_____ plus shipping costs.

Name _____

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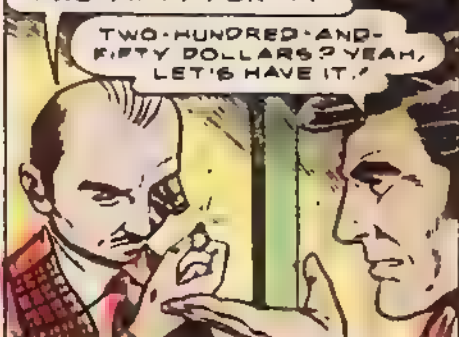
IT WAS THERE AGAIN, THAT LEERING FACE...
COMING TOWARD HIM / HE COULD SEE PART
OF THE BODY NOW...



NO! NO!

AGAIN HE REPLACED THE TRAY,
BLOTTING OUT THE FRIGHTENING
FIGURE / HE SLAMMED THE LID,
LOCKED IT, THEN LEFT THE HOUSE
WITH HIS LOOT...

HMMM... THIS MUST'VE COST YOU
A PRETTY PENNY, MY FRIEND /
THE EMERALDS ARE THE REAL
THING / THE CASE IS GOOD
WHITE GOLD / WILL YOU TAKE
TWO-FIFTY FOR IT?



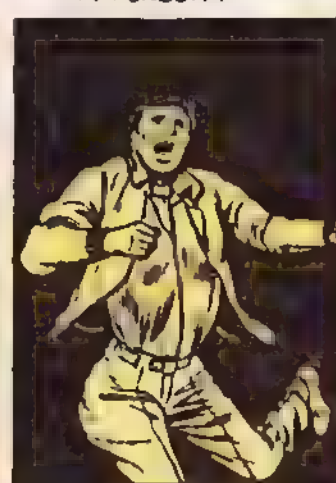
TWO-HUNDRED-AND-
FIFTY DOLLARS? YEAH,
LET'S HAVE IT.

JERRY KNEW HE COULDN'T
RESIST GOING BACK TO THAT
TRUNK, BUT HE MANAGED TO
HOLD OFF FOR TWO MORE
DAYS / THEN, WITH TREMBLING
HANDS HE UNLOCKED IT,
REMOVED THE THIRD TRAY,
AND THEN IT LEAPED OUT,
THE EPIHOME OF EVIL,
LAUGHING SHRILLY...

IT LEAPED OUT, JERRY'S
OWN IMAGE, AND AS JERRY
RAN, THE IMAGE FOLLOWED
IN PURSUIT.



NO! KEEP AWAY FROM ME!



THE LAST THAT WAS SEEN OF
JERRY SLADE HE WAS STUMBLING
ALONG THE STREET THAT NIGHT
PLEADING WITH EVERYONE HE MET...



PLEASE... GET
HIM AWAY FROM
ME!

WHAT'S HE
TALKING
ABOUT? I
DON'T SEE
ANYONE
NEAR HIM!

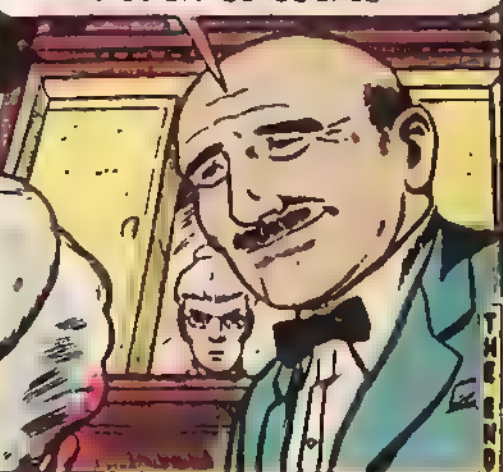
NEXT MORNING, MRS. PEARSON DISCUSSED
THE MATTER OF THE THEFTS WITH JERRY'S
ROOMMATE, A UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR OF
PSYCHOLOGY...

AM, HERE'S THE MONEY HE GOT FOR THOSE
THINGS OF YOURS HE STOLE, PROFESSOR
ARLEN / AND HERE ARE THE RAWN TICKETS /
YOU SEE, I SUSPECTED JERRY SLADE AFTER
CHECKING THE PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT OF ALL
MY ROOMERS / NOBODY KNEW WHERE HE
WAS SUPPOSED TO BE WORKING.



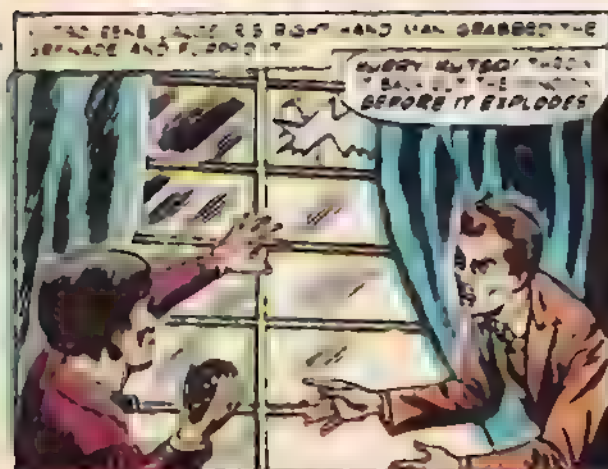
WELL, I'M VERY PLEASED
TO HAVE UNCOVERED HIS
DISHONESTY BY USE OF
PSYCHOLOGY / LOOK
HERE, MRS. PEARSON...
YOU'LL SEE THAT THERE
IS JUST A MIRROR IN THE
BOTTOM OF MY TRUNK!

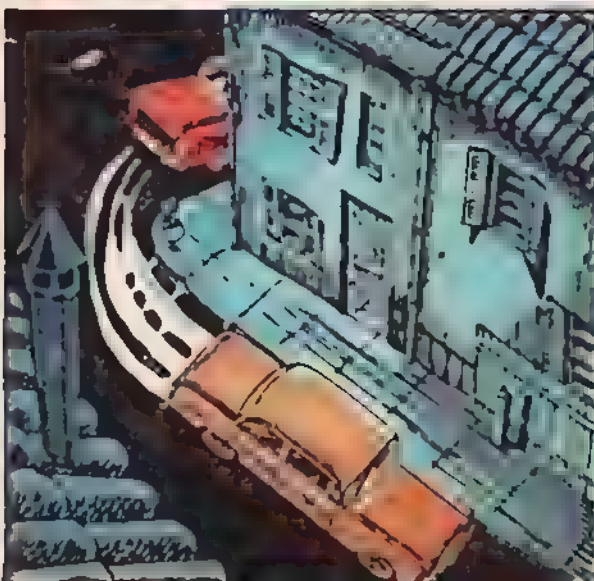
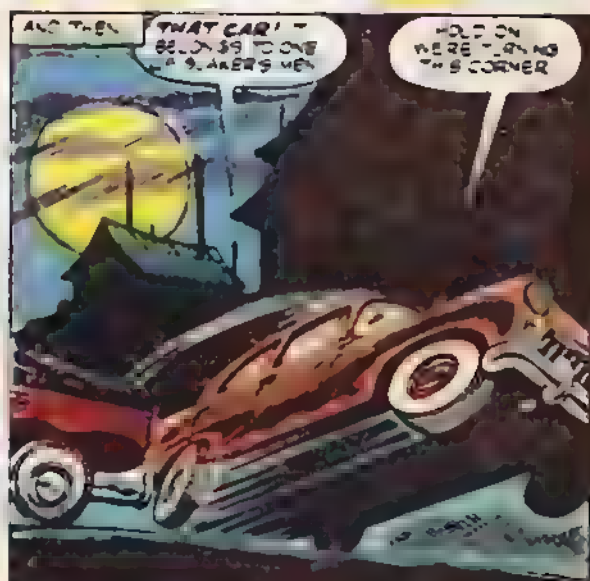
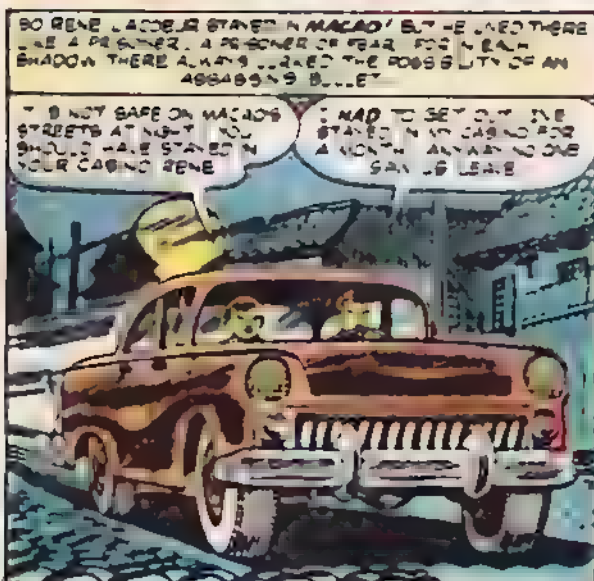
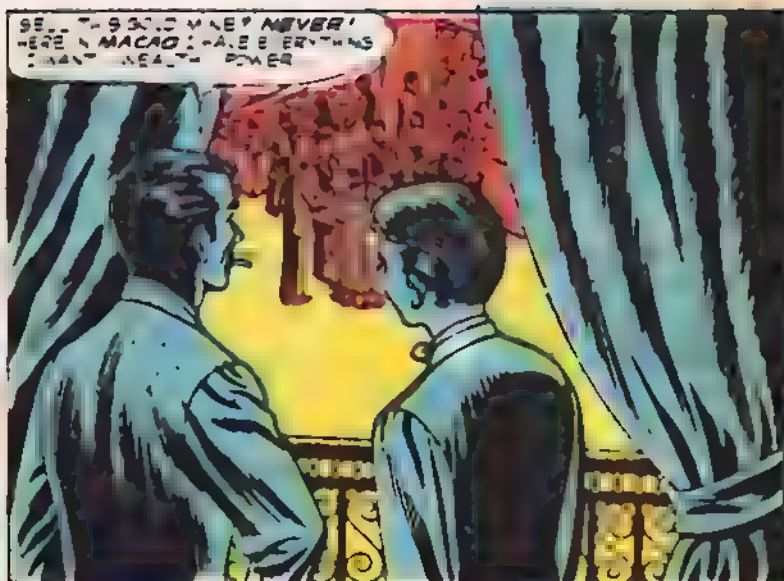
SLADE SAW THE REFLECTION OF
HIS OWN GUILT IN THE MIRROR /
THAT'S HIS PUNISHMENT... TO
ENDURE THE ACCUSING PRESENCE OF
HIS GUILTY CONSCIENCE!

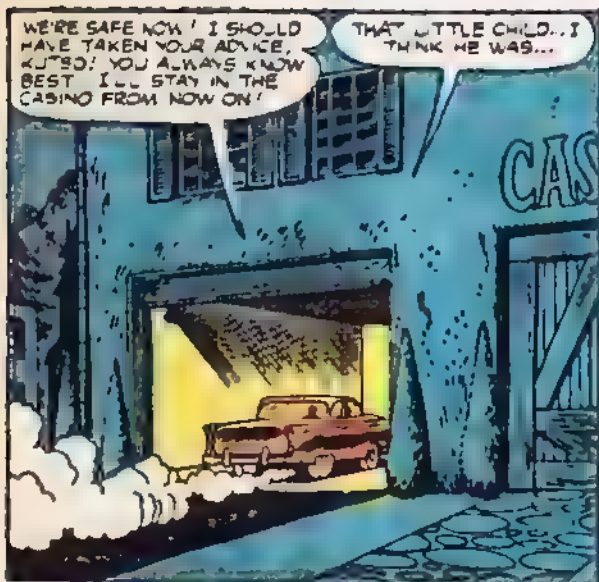


THE SAVED WORLD OF MACAO WAS RULED BY RENE JACOBIS UNTIL THE SLAYER GANG SET OUT TO ERASE HIM!

WHEN HIS WORLD VANISHED







WE'RE SAFE NOW! I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN YOUR ADVICE, KUTSO! YOU ALWAYS KNOW BEST. I'LL STAY IN THE CASINO FROM NOW ON!

THAT LITTLE CHILD... I THINK HE WAS...



YOU KNOW THE ORIENT KUTSO! YOU KNOW THE STRANGE POWERS SOME OF ITS PEOPLE POSSESS! IS THERE SOME WAY SOMEHOW THAT I CAN AVOID DYING?

THERE IS ONE WAY AND ONLY ONE WAY. I WILL SEND YOU TO THE ONE WHO CAN GRANT YOUR WISH!



WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? I NEED YOUR COUNSEL!

I VISITED THE CHILD RENE! HE WILL LIVE! NOW WHAT IS TROUBLING YOU?



AND SO SEVERAL NIGHTS LATER, RENE LACOUR ENTERED A DARK HOUSE IN A DISMAL SECTION OF MACAO...

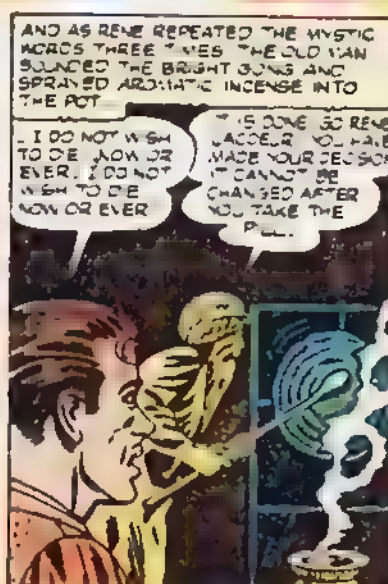
RENE LACOUR I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU! COME. I KNOW THE PURPOSE OF YOUR VISIT!

HE LOOKS A THOUSAND YEARS OLD!



WHEN YOU TAKE THIS PILL YOU WILL NEVER KNOW DEATH. BUT FIRST REPEAT THREE TIMES THESE WORDS. I DO NOT WISH TO DIE NOW OR EVER.

YES YES ANYTHING YOU SAY WISE, ONE



AND AS RENE REPEATED THE MYSTIC WORDS THREE TIMES THE OLD MAN SOUNDED THE BRIGHT BONGS AND SPRAYED AROMATIC INCENSE INTO THE POT.

I DO NOT WISH TO DIE NOW OR EVER. I DO NOT WISH TO DIE NOW OR EVER.

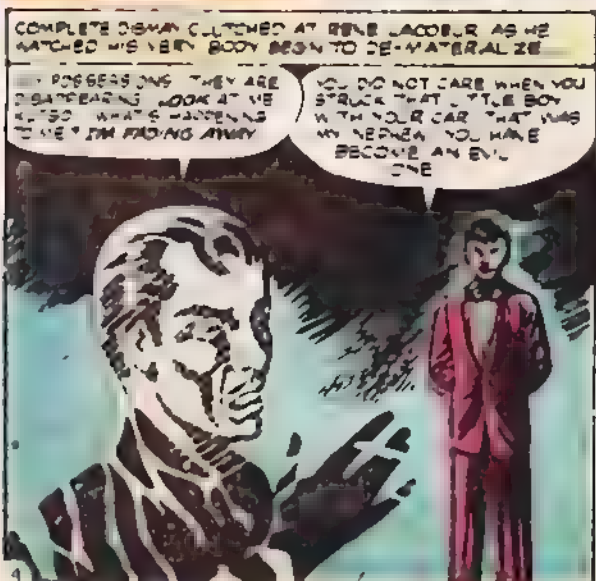
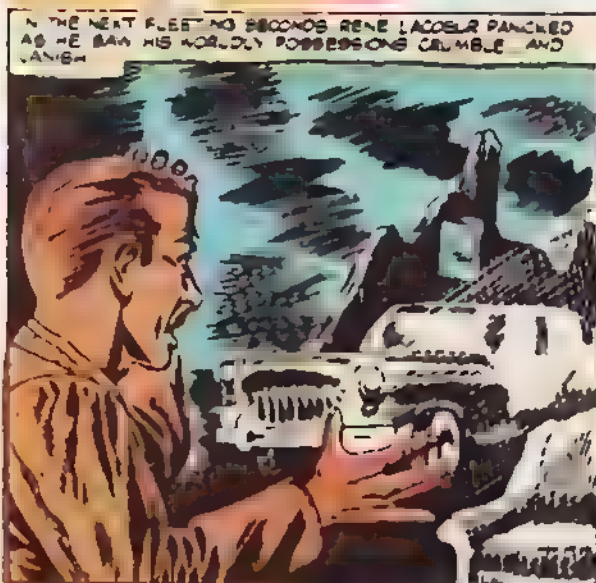
IT IS DONE. SO RENE LACOUR YOU HAVE MADE YOUR DECISION. IT CANNOT BE CHANGED AFTER YOU TAKE THE PILL.



QUICKLY RENE RETURNED AND TOLD KUTSO WHAT HAD HAPPENED...

AND THE OLD ONE WOULD NOT EVEN TAKE A REWARD KUTSO. DO YOU THINK THIS WILL REALLY WORK?

TAKE THE PILL AND SEE!



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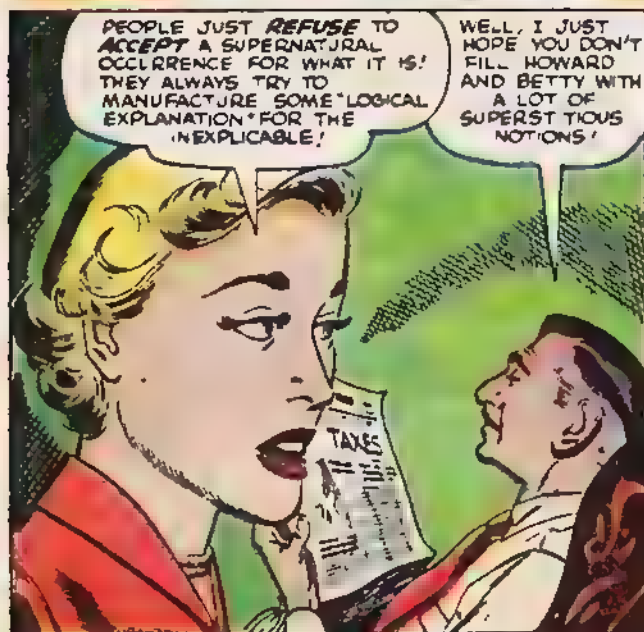
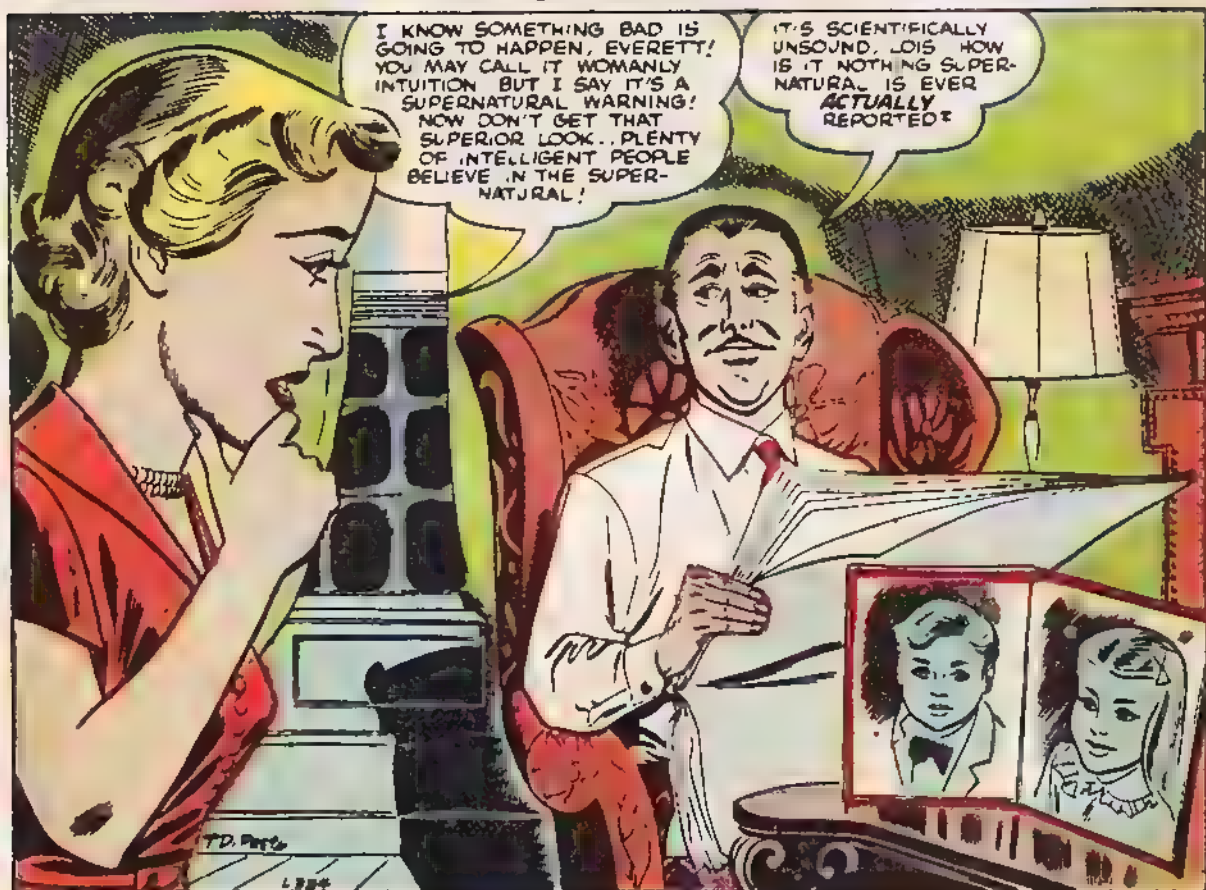
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EVERETT HARLEY HAD AN ANSWER FOR ALL SUPERNATURAL PHENOMENA...UNTIL SOMETHING FANTASTICALLY UNEXPLAINABLE TURNED HIS LIFE INTO A NIGHTMARE. SUDDENLY HE HAD THE ANSWER FOR THIS TOO! OR DID HE?

ALL THROUGH the NIGHT

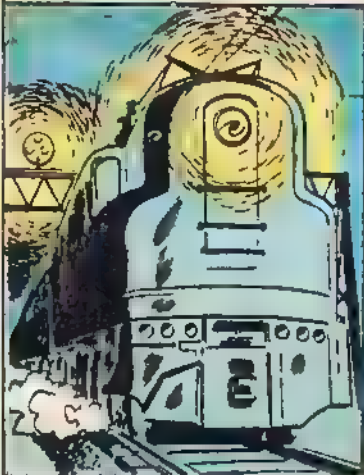


EVERETT MARLEY QUICKLY FORGOT HIS DISCUSSION OF THE SUPERNATURAL WITH HIS WIFE. NEXT DAY WAS A BUSY ONE AND HE HAD TO WORK OVERTIME.

TEN FORTY-SEVEN. I'M SO TIRED I DON'T KNOW HOW I'LL WAKE UP IN TIME FOR WORK IN THE MORNING.



HE TRIED TO STAY AWAKE, NOT MISS HIS STATION IN THE SUBURBS. THE PAPER HE WAS READING SWAM BEFORE HIS SLEEP-HEAVY EYES, AND HE QUICKLY SANK INTO OBLIVION...

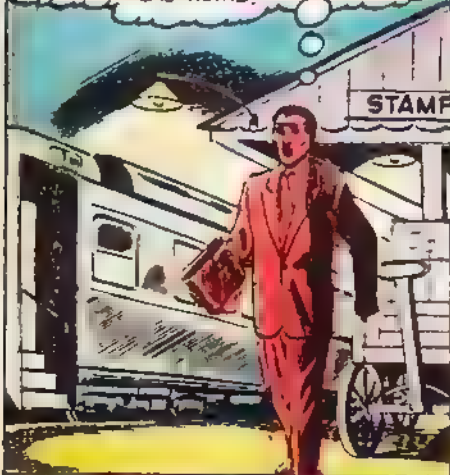


HE AWOKES WITH A START! THE SUDDEN KNOWLEDGE THAT HE WAS ALONE ON THE TRAIN FILLED EVERETT WITH AN UNEXPLAINABLE UNEASINESS...

MUST'VE SLEPT RIGHT TO THE LAST STOP. I'D BETTER GET THE FIRST TRAIN BACK! LOIS WILL BE FRANTIC WITH WORRY!



IF THIS ISN'T THE STRANGEST THING! IT'S MY STATION! MAYBE THE TRAIN BROKE DOWN! WELL, I'LL TAKE A CAB HOME!



IT WAS THE START OF A BAD TIME FOR EVERETT MARLEY! HE KNEW THE HOUSE HE ENTERED WAS HIS HOME, BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING VERY WRONG...

EVERETT, I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT! WE WERE SO WORRIED, THE CHILDREN JUST REFUSED TO GO TO SLEEP!

SAY, WHAT IS THIS? WHO ARE YOU?



EVERETT, DON'T YOU FEEL WELL?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT, BUT I DO KNOW YOU'RE NOT MY WIFE AND CHILDREN!

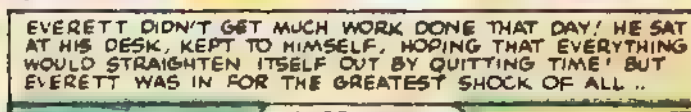
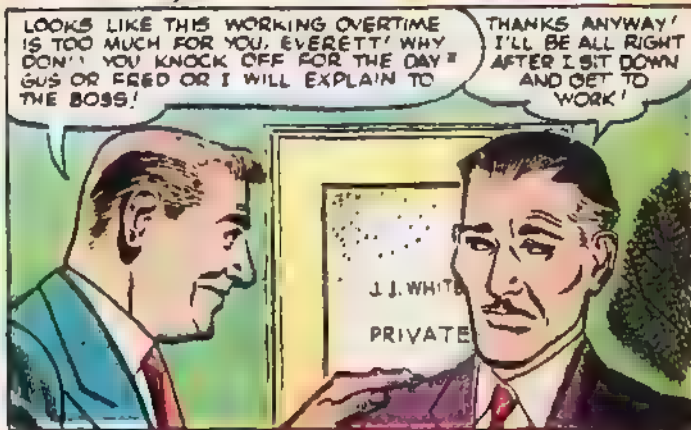
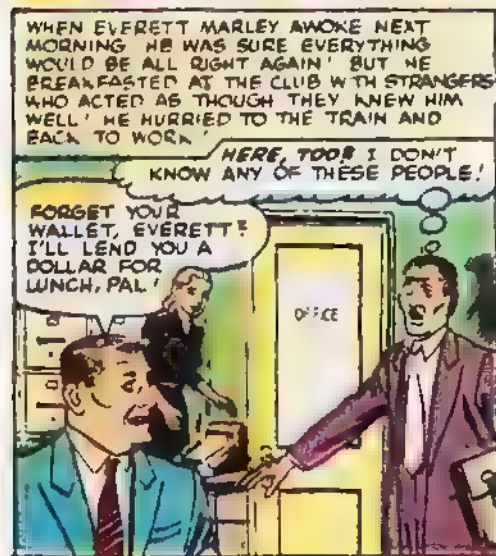
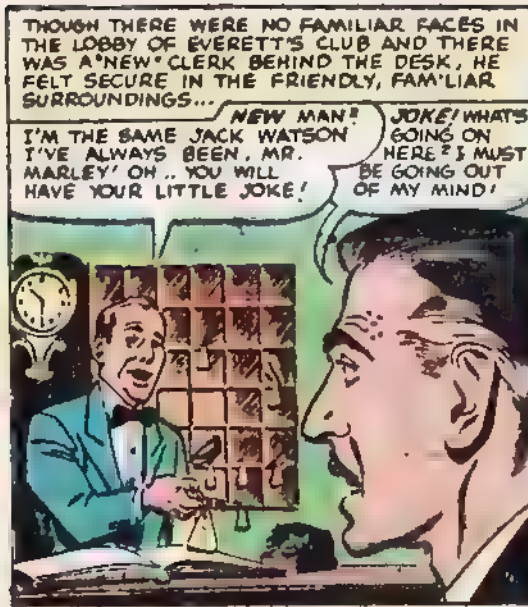


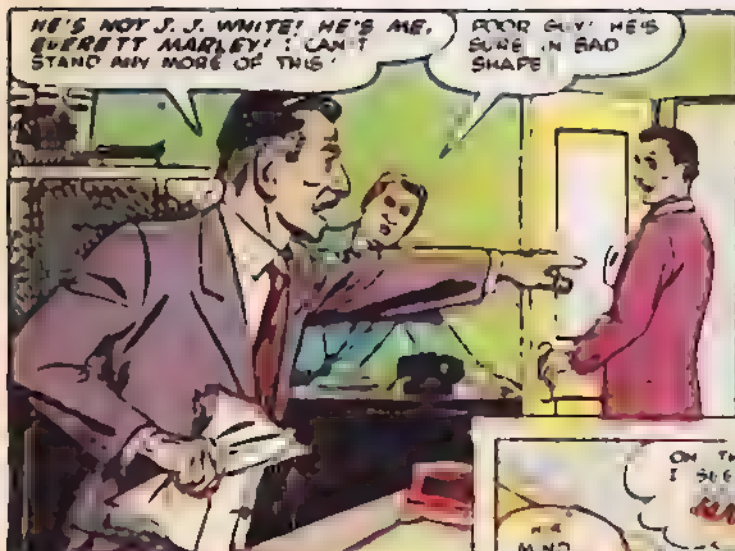
THE BEWILDERED MAN RAN NEXT DOOR TO THE HOME OF A NEIGHBOR HE HAD KNOWN FOR YEARS...

OH HELLO, EVERETT! WHAT'S UP? SOMETHING WRONG AT HOME?

I'LL SAY THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG AT HOME! YOU'RE NOT CHARLIE MAXWELL!

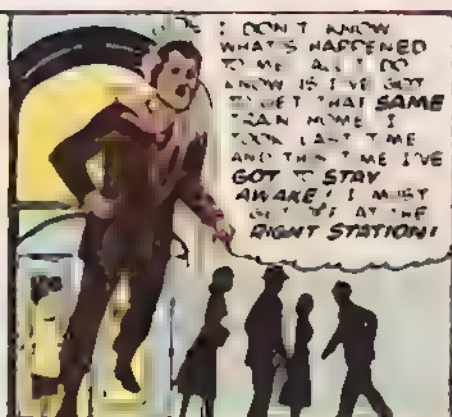






HE'S NOT J. J. WHITE! HE'S ME, EVERETT MARLEY! I CAN'T STAND ANY MORE OF THIS!

POOR GUY! HE'S SURE IN BAD SHAPE



I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME. ALL I DO KNOW IS I'VE GOT TO GET THAT SAME TRAIN HOME I TOOK LAST TIME AND THIS TIME I'VE GOT TO STAY AWAKE! I MUST GET OFF AT THE RIGHT STATION!



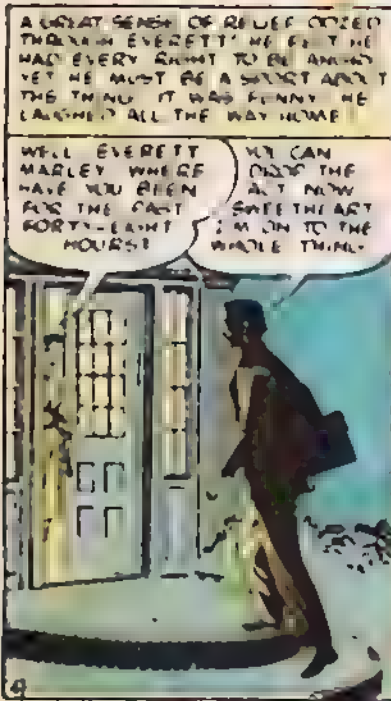
IT WASN'T UNTIL EVERETT WAS ON HIS WAY HOME ON THE LATE TRAIN THAT A FAINT SUSPICION ENTERED HIS MIND AND SPREAD THRU HIS BRAIN LIKE A LIGHT BEAM

WHAT A CHUMP I'VE BEEN ALL THAT TALK ABOUT THE SUPERNATURAL THAT NIGHT



ON THIS IS OK. JUST WAIT TILL I SEE LONG WHY THE FAN ASTER

HE AND MUST BE SNAPPED



A GREAT SENSE OF RELIEF CAME THRU EVERETT. HE FELT HE HAD EVERY RIGHT TO BE ANGRY YET HE MUST BE A SNEAK ABOUT THE THING. IT WAS FUNNY. HE LAUGHED ALL THE WAY HOME

WELL EVERETT MARLEY WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN FOR THE PAST FORTY-EIGHT HOURS?

WE CAN DO THE ACT NOW. SAVE THE ACT. I'M ON TO THE WHOLE THING.



DON'T TRY TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT

IT WAS THE WORST APRIL FOOL'S DAY GAG I'VE EVER HEARD OF. BUT HOW COULD WE MAKE IT ALL THESE MASKS AND VEILS AND THE NOS AND THE CHANGE MAKEUP. NEXT GOOD AND THE RUN AT THE OFFICE. MY MIND WAS LETTING A MAN GET THE BEST THAT

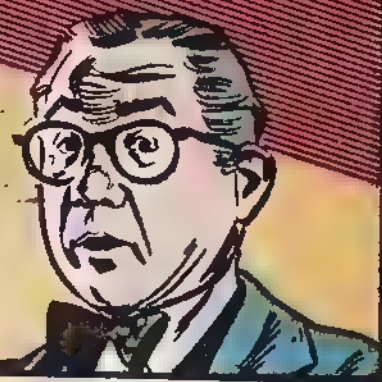


APRIL FOOL GAG? DON'T BE A FOOL, EVERETT. APRIL FIRST ISN'T TILL TOMORROW!

THEN (GASP) WHO WHERE IS THEY NOW...??

THE END

Surprise for the Audience



THEY were the sensations of the show business season. One was a dapper, versatile ventriloquist. The other was an equally voluble and debonair dummy. They were billed in bright lights as Mike and Ike. Naturally, Mike and Ike looked alike . . . amazingly alike! And they were teamed to perfection.

Audiences across the country chuckled at their wit and clever repartee routines. The shrill, often sardonic voice of the dummy was in perfect counterpoint to the subdued, dignified tones of his partner.

Many people confused the identity of the partners. The dummy normally dispelled their dilemma in the course of his dialogue. "Mike's the weakling with the bobbing Adam's apple. Poor fellow, his head can't turn in a complete circle!"

Of course, Ike was incorrigible. He could be slyly sarcastic, impish, indignant, delightful or defiant as the occasion demanded. He was the undisputed darling of the darkened theatres and night clubs in which he appeared. His partner was almost colorless by comparison.

"You'd almost believe he's human," one enthralled woman remarked after watching their act at a prominent show spot.

"Which one do you mean?"

her escort kidded. "The dummy or the man who's supposed to be doing the whole show?"

"The dummy, of course," she countered indignantly. "The way that Mike makes the puppet's mouth move, you're hardly aware that he's manipulating strings or controlling his limbs from the rear. It's just short of miraculous. He's a skilled sleight-of-hand artist as well as a ventriloquist. The way that dummy's lips laugh, the way his eyes pop, you'd almost believe he's alive."

"Maybe he is," her companion pursued. "The dummy certainly seems more animated to me than Mike. Perhaps Ike is a genius from Mars who migrated here and put Mike under a hypnotic spell. Perhaps Mike is Ike's stooge even off-stage."

"I do believe that you've gone stark, raving mad," she protested angrily. "What a macabre imagination. You don't really believe that?"

"I guess I just enjoyed teasing you," he confessed. "Mike has a magnificent act, and he won all your attention from me. But I must admit that he makes an illusion seem real. It's hard to believe that the dummy isn't really the dominating, dynamic force behind their act. It's hard

to believe that Mike isn't really mouthing the words that Ike wants him to.

"That's why I was spoofing you. But you shouldn't keep such a tight rein on your imagination. Our government is experimenting with a moon satellite around Earth. They talk of sending a rocket mission to Mars before the turn of the century. Why can't you conceive that people from Mars have already accomplished that feat, that already in our midst are forms which are capable of highly-intelligent thought and conduct. Like Ike, for example!"

She smiled broadly at his amusing exposition. "If I allowed my imagination to roam," she admitted, "I guess anything would be possible. Suppose we stay for the second show. We'd have to wait an hour, but Mike and Ike fascinate me. I'd like a chance to study them closely."

"Agreed! I'm as interested as you are. I want to see why I feel that the dummy is actually exerting his will over Mike. It's a delightful deception probably and I won't be able to fathom it, but I'd like to try."

They finished their dinner during the night club intermission. They chatted animatedly about many things, but both

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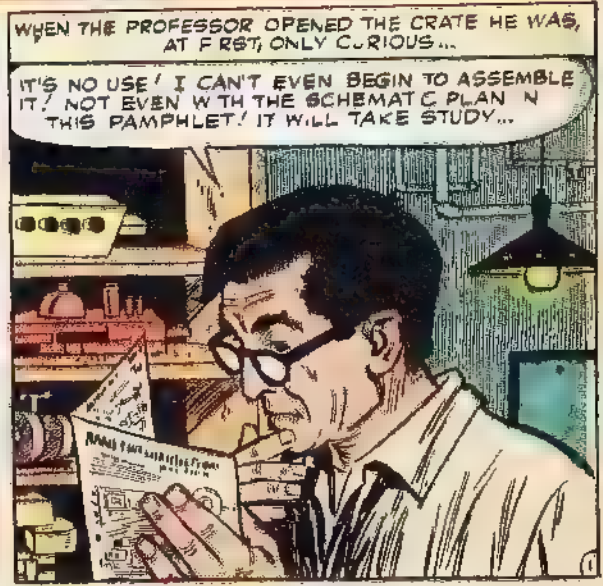
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THE MACHINE WAS INCREDIBLY COMPLEX! BUT AFTER ALL, THE PROFESSOR WAS A GENIUS... HE SAID SO HIMSELF! TO A MAN LIKE HIM, ASSEMBLING THE MACHINE WOULD BE...

CHILD'S PLAY!



THE PROFESSOR TRIED AND FAILED
AND THEN HE ASKED QUESTIONS
NO PROFESSOR WE DID SEND
YOU A SHIPMENT OF TOYS BUT
NOTHING LIKE THE ONE
YOU'VE DESCRIBED
I'M CERTAIN



I SEE YOU
KNOW NOTHING
ABOUT IT! ALL
RIGHT FORGET
IT

I DONT COME FROM THE TOY
SHOP AND THERE'S NO LABEL
NO MARKING THEN WHERE...
THOSE PARTS WERE NEVER
MADE IN ANY ORDINARY
FACTORY

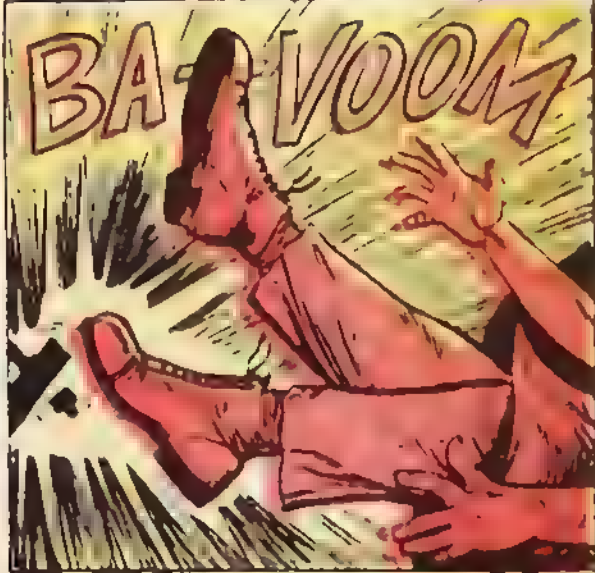
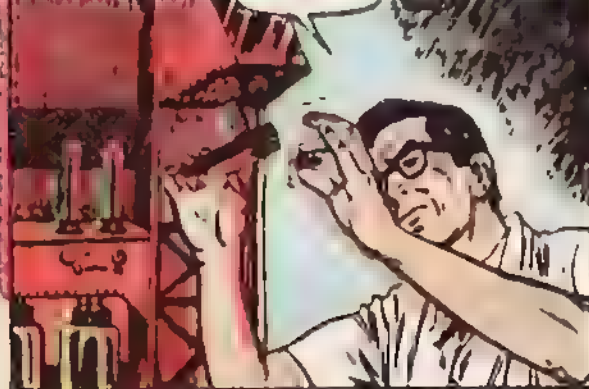


IT'S FANTASTIC BUT LET'S PUT IT
A TEST! COULD BE WHAT
IS FROM ANOTHER 'CELESTIAL'
COULD ASSEMBLE TO PROVE
A GENIUS



AND SO THE PROFESSOR WENT TO WORK IN
EARNEST GREATNESS HAS WITHIN'S GRASP
BUT GREATNESS IS NOT EASILY EARNED

THREE MONTHS OF WORK! THREE MONTHS
AND I'VE ONLY **BEGUN!** I DON'T EVEN KNOW
WHAT THE MACHINE WILL DO BUT AT LEAST I'M
PROGRESSING THIS PART GOES
HERE



THE PROFESSOR KNEW NOTHING THEN FOR WEEKS
BUT HIS SUBCONSCIOUS REMEMBERED

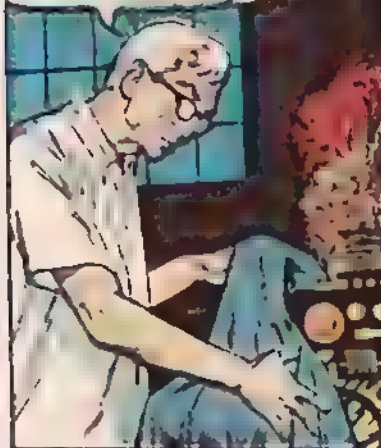
GENIUS I'M A GENIUS PROVE IT MAKE WORLD
APPRECIATE ME NEVER HAVE TO WORK
AGAIN WITH ANNOYING
CHILDREN



AFTER THE HOSPITAL THE PROFESSOR WENT ON!
HE BECAME A RECLUSE DEDICATED TO A
SINGLE TASK A SINGLE DANGEROUS TASK



AT LEAST THE FIRE WON'T HURT THE PARTS. THEY'RE INDESTRUCTIBLE! THE EXPLOSION PROVED THAT. BUT WHAT DO I DO WRONG WHAT?



THE PROFESSOR WORKED AND MADE HIS STAKES. AND THE YEARS ROLLED BY. BUT ONE DAY THE GREAT MOMENT ARRIVED.

IT'S FINISHED! FINISHED! WHEN I PRESS THIS BUTTON THE MACHINE WILL BE ACTIVATED! BUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN I DO?



THE PROFESSOR WAS TASTED, BUT GENIUS DOES NOT RECOGNIZE FEAR. HIS FINGER MOVED, DEPRESSION THE BUTTON.

IT'S WORKING! AND I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU WHOEVER YOU ARE. THANK YOU.



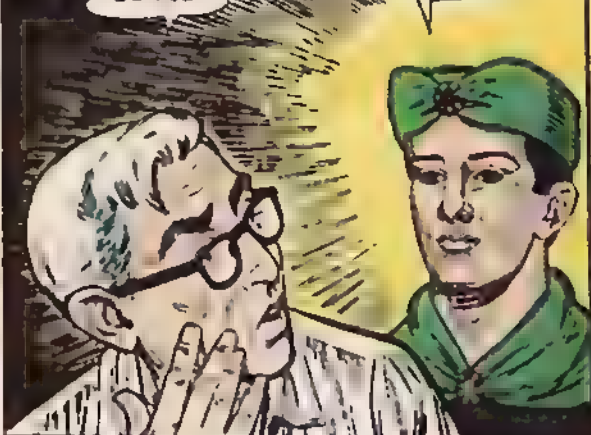
WHAT WHO ARE YOU? WHERE THE MACHINE? THE MACHINE BROUGHT YOU!

YES IN MY WORLD IN WHAT YOU WOULD CALL THE FOURTH DIMENSION! WE CALL IT A MATERIALIZER. YEARS AGO SOMEHOW IT STAYED INTO YOUR WORLD. I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR IT EVER SINCE.



THEN IT WASN'T A TEST, BUT I'VE WORKED YEARS ON IT! YOU CAN'T JUST TAKE IT. IF YOU DO NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW. THEY'LL NEVER BELIEVE THAT I'M A GENIUS!

STILL I MUST TAKE IT! YOUR DIMENSION IS NOT YET READY FOR SUCH THINGS!



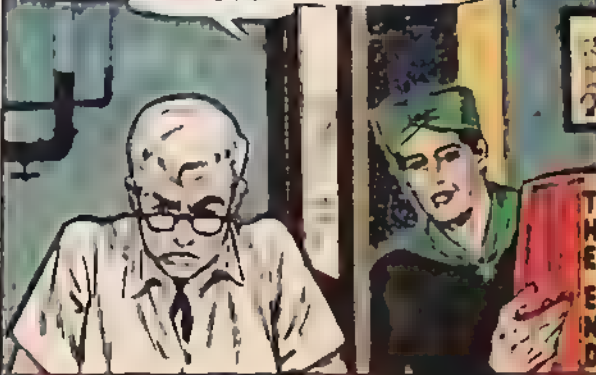
JUST FOR AN INSTANT THE PROFESSOR TASTED DEFEAT. BUT THERE WAS ANOTHER WAY TO ACHIEVE HIS GOAL.

ALL RIGHT TAKE THE MACHINE. BUT TAKE ME TOO. TAKE ME BACK TO YOUR WORLD. I DON'T BELONG HERE. I'M A GENIUS. I'VE PROVEN IT. OFF IN YOUR WORLD. PLEASE!



THE PROFESSOR PLEADED BUT IT WAS NO USE. HE COULD ONLY REMEMBER THE LONG WASTED YEARS, BITTERLY AS HIS VISITOR SPOKE GENTLY...

NO! I'M SORRY BUT YOU'VE PROVEN JUST THE OPPOSITE! I TOOK YOU YEARS TO ASSEMBLE THE MATERIALIZER. BUT IN OUR WORLD OUR THREE-YEAR OLDS AMUSE THEMSELVES WITH SUCH THINGS YOU SEE. IT'S JUST A TOY!



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CONTINUED

were privately impatient for the lights to dim and the second show to begin. After a frenzied fanfare from the band, the curtains parted and the spotlight revealed a tableau that made all the patrons gasp.

Mike was slumped in a straight-backed chair. His chin rested on his chest and he was snoring loudly. Ike, however, was sitting majestically on a high stool next to his partner. At first, Ike just stared silently at the audience. Then, suddenly, he stirred. He glanced idly at Mike and the audience gasped. For, Mike remained sound asleep. The audience was due for another shock. For, Ike began to speak.

"Ladies and gentlemen," he shrilled, "I trust that you will accept my apologies for Mike's bad manners. He didn't mean to snooze. It's just that he's been working too hard lately . . . staying up to all hours, rehearsing new skits, getting up new gags, and trying to match wits with me all day. That can be rather trying, you know," he laughed, letting the last remark sink in.

"After all, Mike's just an ordinary mortal, who wears out with strain. I'm made of sterner stuff. Mahogany, Mike says, but don't let him kid you. My mind's not stuffed with sawdust. I've got more thinking apparatus upstairs than you'd imagine. I'm not ordinary dummy. If I were, what a dreadful dilemma we'd all be facing now. You paid for a show, but because Mike fell asleep you normally wouldn't get your money's worth. You'd be angry. The management would be angry. And I'd be angry, too

. . . IF I COULDN'T GO IT ALONE!"

The audience stirred. Subdued whispers spread across the huge room as the patrons strove to pierce the mystery unfolding before their eyes. The noise



awakened Mike. He rubbed his bleary eyes and stared in sudden surprise at the sea of eyes upon him.

"Wake up, brother, and mind your manners," Ike cued him. "The good people expect a show, so let's go ahead with our lines."

Mike smiled broadly and immediately launched into a clever conversational duel with Ike. The audience, however, hardly listened to the sparkling dialogue. They were too busy speculating on what had transpired earlier. They applauded enthusiastically at the end of the act and seemed eager for Mike and

Ike to exit. Then, the puzzled people overflowed with questions.

"How did he pull that off? Mike seemed sound asleep. His snores seemed authentic. But how could he snore and make Ike talk at the same time? And how was he able to throw his voice with his chin buried in his chest? His lips didn't move and his throat was tied in knots. How did the dummy's lips, eyes and its entire head move? Mike's hands were in his lap, and nobody was behind Ike, manipulating any strings."

Some suggested that a record backstage with a hidden speaker onstage had produced Ike's voice. Others advanced the theory that Ike's limbs and head had been controlled by electrical current, supplied by an invisible wire.

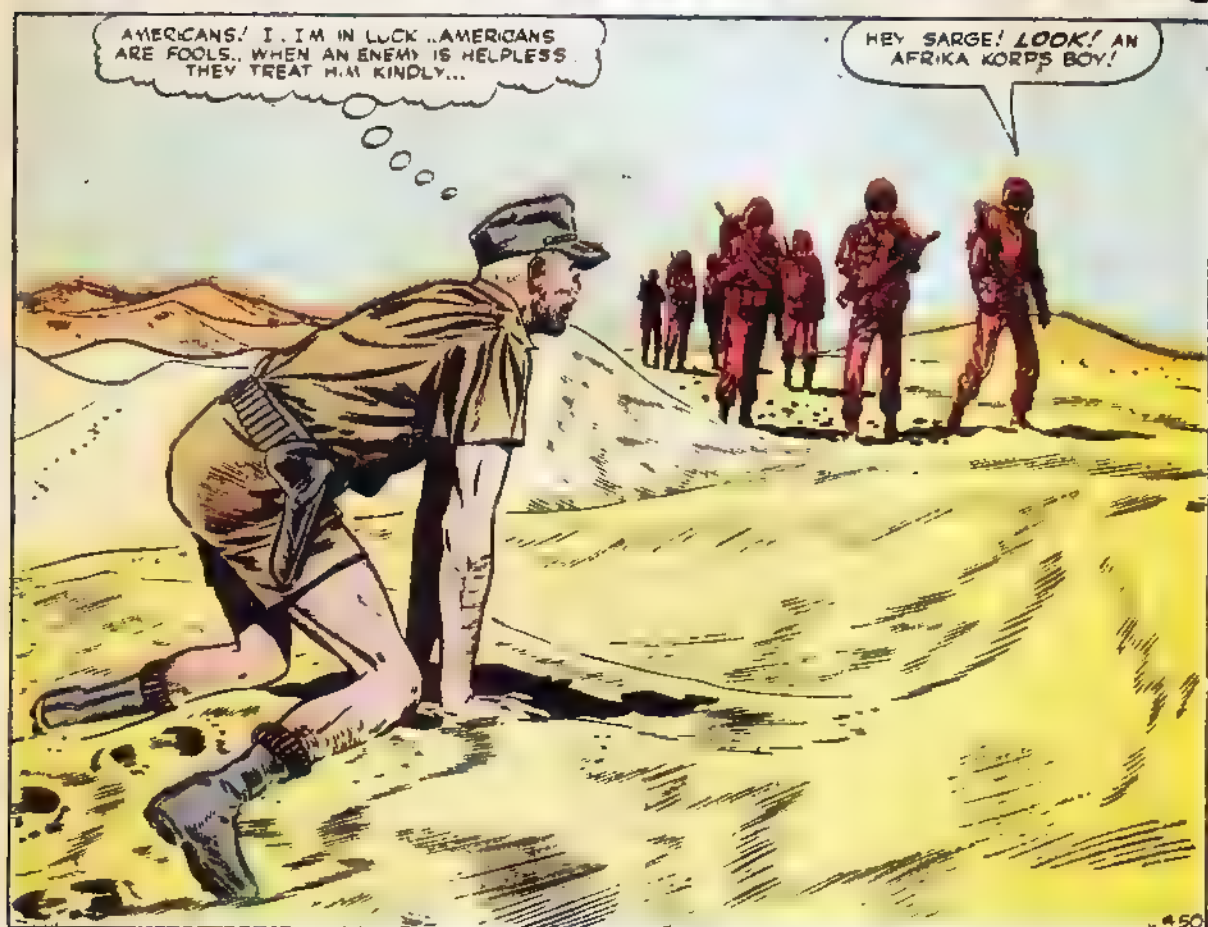
Nobody was sure Mike had been asleep. Nobody knows his secret. Mike and Ike continue to capture audiences completely and smash all attendance records wherever they go. Ike is impish and incorrigible as ever. Everybody loves him. Mike, as usual, is almost overlooked.

Maybe on Mars someone knows the answer to the mystery. That's one thing Mike and Ike won't talk about!

THE END H-789

HE THOUGHT HE HAD FOUND IMMORTALITY BUT IT WAS HIS OWN DOOM THAT THE LIEUTENANT HAD DISCOVERED.

INSIDE THE HIDDEN WELL!



AMERICANS! I, I'M IN LUCK... AMERICANS ARE FOOLS... WHEN AN ENEMY IS HELPLESS THEY TREAT HIM KINDLY...

HEY SARGE! LOOK! AN AFRIKA KORPS BOY!

OBERLEUTNANT FRITZ VON HORST SLIPPED OVER THE EDGE OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS AND SO HE DID NOT KNOW WHEN THE AMERICANS REACHED HIM

HE'S OKAY, HALF GONE FROM THIRST BUT HE'S ALL IN ONE PIECE. I WONDER WHAT HE'S DOING OUT HERE ALONE?

PROBABLY LOST HIS WAY AND IS TRYING TO FIND HIS WAY OUT OF THE DESERT JUST LIKE WE ARE.



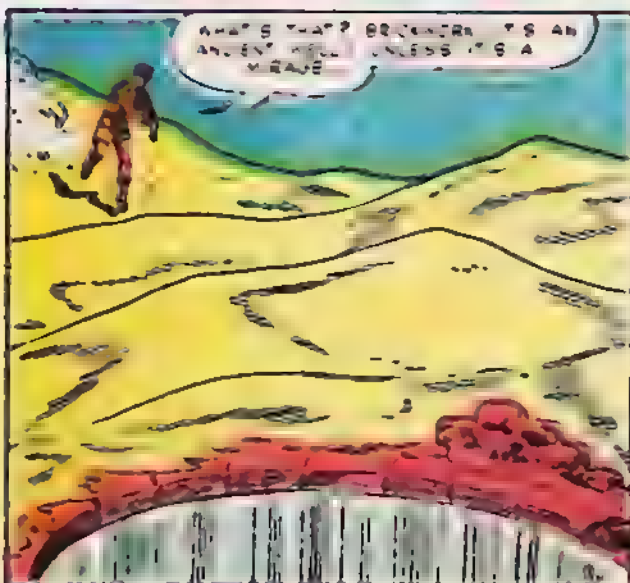
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH WATER LEFT OR FOOD EITHER BUT FEED HIM A DRINK AND DO WHAT YOU CAN FOR HIM. WE'LL CAMP HERE UNTIL HE COMES OUT OF IT.



NOW THE LEUTENANT WOULD HAVE SMILED AT THAT IF HE HAD BEEN AS SURE THE BEFORE
JUST AS HE HAD BEEN AS SURE THE BEFORE



AFTERWARD THE LEUTENANT SMILED TO HIMSELF THOSE
TRUSTING FOOLS. BUT HE HAD NO SIGN OF HIS THOUGHTS!
NEXT DAY



THE LIEUTENANT DRANK GREEDILY BUT THAT WASN'T ENOUGH.



I WON'T TELL THE AMERICANS ABOUT THIS. I CAN STEAL THEIR FOOD AND THEIR EMPTY CANTEENS AND COME HERE TO REFILL THEM! THIS IS PERFECT!

ONE CAN PERHAPS COULD ESCAPE THE DESERT! IF HE HAD ENOUGH FOOD AND WATER BUT YOU MUST WOULD MANAGE THAT NOW HE WAS SMILING WHEN HE DECEASED! AT LEAST AT FIRST! THEN...



ANN!

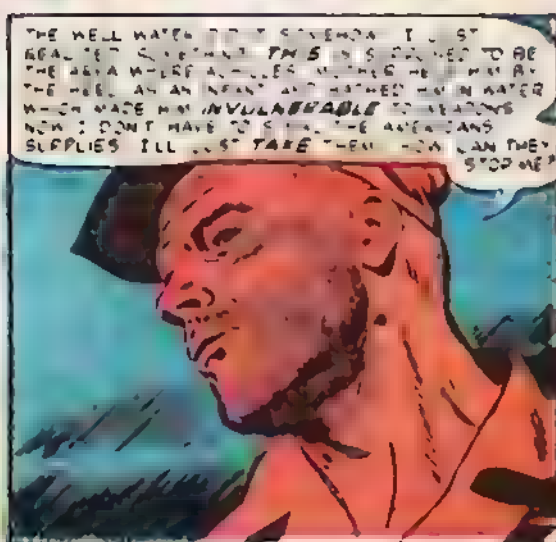


AN ASP? IT BUT HE BUT ITS FANGS DIDN'T PENETRATE THE SKIN. MY SKIN IT FEELS DIFFERENT STRANGE! A MOST LIKE METAL

THE THOUGHT THAT CAME TO THE LIEUTENANT WAS WILD IMPROBABLE! BUT FOR LONG MINUTES HE EXPERIMENTED



NO MATTER HOW I TRY I CAN'T EVEN SCRATCH THE SKIN! AND MY WHOLE BODY IS THE SAME. I AM INDESTRUCTIBLE! LIKE ACHILLES IN THE GREEK LEGEND!



THE WELL WATER DIDN'T SAVE HIM. I JUST REALIZED THAT THE SKIN IS SO HARD TO BE THE REASON WHY ACHILLES MET HIS END BY THE HEEL. AN AN INFANT AND BATHED HIM IN WATER WHICH MADE HIM INVULNERABLE TO WEAPONS NOW I DON'T HAVE TO SHOOT THE AMERICANS SUPPLIES I'LL JUST TAKE THEM NOW CAN THEY STOP ME?

ABRUPTLY THE LIEUTENANT REJOINED THE OTHERS! AND THERE WAS NO NEED TO WAIT NOW! AT SUNDOWN HE MADE HIS MOVE



BARGE! LOOK!

I SEE HIM! YOU MUST COME BACK HERE HAVE YOU GONE CRAZY? YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH THIS!



HE HAS GONE CRAZY! BUT HE WON'T GET FAR

WE CAN'T JUST SHOOT HIM DOWN HE PROBABLY DOESN'T EVEN REALIZE WHAT HE'S DOING!



MAYBE NOT BUT WE'LL NEVER FIND HIM IN THE DARK, AND IF HE GETS AWAY WE'RE FINISHED! HE'S GOT THE LAST OF OUR FOOD AND WATER!

I HATE TO DO IT BUT I CAN'T LET A DOZEN MEN DIE BECAUSE OF ONE! OKAY, OPEN-UP!



GO ON! WASTE YOUR AMMUNITION! YOU FOOLS! YOU CAN'T HURT ME! **NOTHING** CAN HURT ME!

THE LIEUTENANT LAUGHED ALOUD! HE COULD FEEL THE BULLETS STRIKE, BUT USELESSLY HARMLESSLY! THEN SUDDENLY HIS LAUGHTER CEASED!



WE GOT HIM! COME ON!

THE LIEUTENANT WASN'T LAUGHING WHEN THE AMERICANS REACHED HIM!

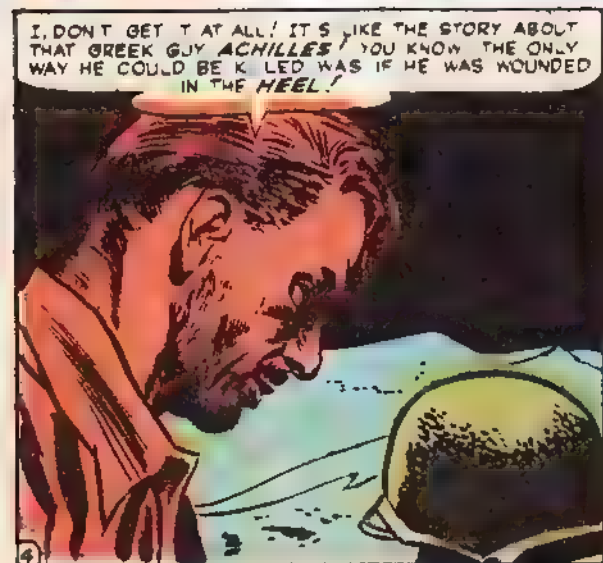


HOW BAD IS IT?

I DON'T KNOW! I CAN'T FIND **WHERE** THE SHOT CAUGHT HIM! I'LL HAVE TO STRIP HIM!

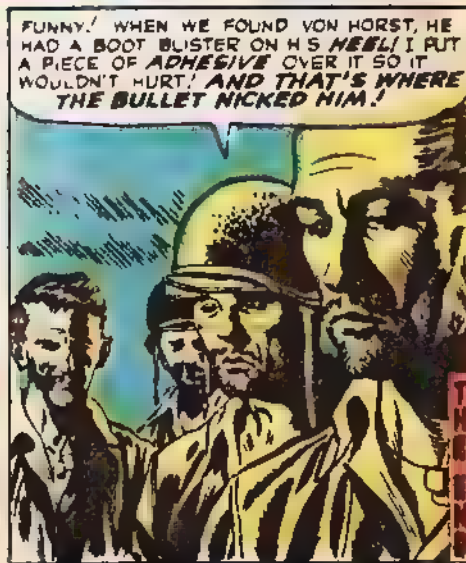


WELL? HE'S DEAD SARGE! BUT IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! ALL I CAN FIND IS A **LITTLE MARK** WHERE A SLUG NICKED HIM!



I DON'T GET IT AT ALL! IT'S LIKE THE STORY ABOUT THAT GREEK GUY **ACHILLES**, YOU KNOW THE ONLY WAY HE COULD BE KILLED WAS IF HE WAS WOUNDED IN THE **HEEL**!

THE MEDIC SHOOK HIS HEAD! BUT THEN HE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE WELL! ONLY THE LIEUTENANT WOULD HAVE GUESSED THAT THE WELL WATER HAD TOUCHED **EVERY PART** OF HIS BODY **BUT ONE!** AND HE WASN'T TELLING!



FUNNY! WHEN WE FOUND VON HORST, HE HAD A BOOT BLISTER ON HIS **HEEL**! I PUT A PIECE OF **ADHESIVE** OVER IT SO IT WOULDN'T HURT! **AND THAT'S WHERE THE BULLET NICKED HIM!**

How Much Do you Want To Make?

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"FOR every hour I have devoted to the PRESTO, I find that I have earned an average of \$15.20 an hour. I am now convinced that extraordinary money can be made in this safety field."

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MR. Walter Gable has been selling Presto Fire Extinguishers for over 4 years. This is what he writes: "My selling time has usually averaged less than a day or two a week. These part time sales have brought me as much as \$75.00 to \$80.00 a week."

—WALTER GABLE, Md

\$1000.00 A MONTH?



A MAGAZINE featured this man on its front cover. In an interview with the magazine's reporter he said: "I think I've succeeded pretty well. I'm making more than a thousand dollars a month—and I haven't touched bottom yet."

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The Amazing New Kind of Fire Extinguisher That "Sells on Sight!"

"SCIENCE'S NEW MIDGET MIRACLE" FIRE EXTINGUISHER. You Tell Them This New Kind of Extinguisher Costs Only \$4.95



FOLKS, wouldn't you like to be making the kind of money these men made? Their stories (and those shown at right) prove how easy it is to cash in on the tremendous demand for Presto!

A Florida man earned \$600 in one month. An Ohio man earned \$2100 in two months. A New York man earned \$1500 in one month.

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PRESTO contains an amazing new chemical—"Chlorobromomethane" or "C.B."—developed during the war. In comparing the effectiveness of "C.B." in fighting various kinds of fires an authoritative testing laboratory states: "It has been proved that 'C.B.' is about 15 to 6 times as effective as other common extinguishing agents on an equal weight basis."

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Advised in LIFE Magazine

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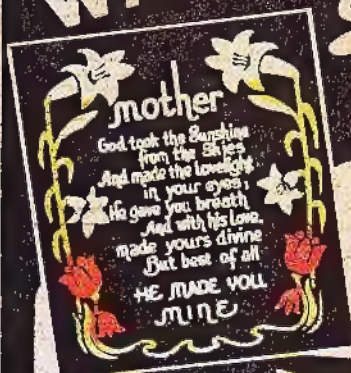
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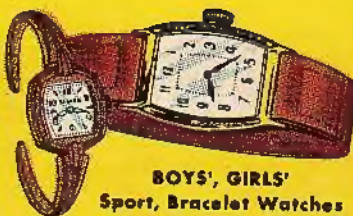
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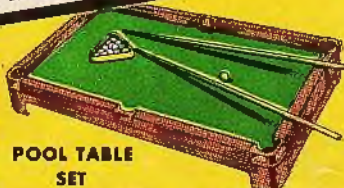
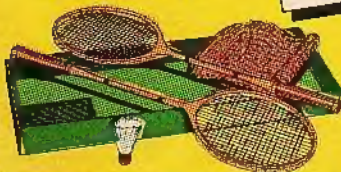


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